MY

REAL FRIEND;

OR,

INCIDENTS IN LIFE,

FOUNDED ON TRUTH.

A TRIFLE

FOR

CHILDREN.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM DARTON, JUN.

58, HOLBORN HILL.

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OR,

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FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF CHILDREN.

Second Edition corrected.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY W. DARTON, jun. 58, HOLBORN-HILL
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PREFACE.

Dear Children!

YOU that know the alphabet have the basis of all learning, and may by time and application in reading, gain a general knowledge which it will be your own faults, if you do not turn to some good and useful purpose.

It is with the best intentions you are taught to read and write; your parents have found great advantages arising from the education they received whilst young like yourselves; and are now desirous in their turn, to give no less to you; they are anxious to train your minds to every moral precept; to give you a knowledge of those things, which tend to peace in this life, and happiness in the future.

With the good example and precepts of your superiors, I wish you to act as your friends advise and direct you; thus you will fulfill their best wishes, and if any thing contained herein be found to interest and instruct you, may you each claim or hail it "My real Friend," *while I shall be amply repaid by the amusement afforded, and for the present subscribe myself,*

Dear Children,

your Friend,

and well wisher,

The Author.

THE FAITHFUL DOG.

London. Published by W. Darton Junr. Augst 1st 1812. 58 Holborn Hill.

THE attachment of Dogs to their masters, and those of their household, has long characterised them emblems of fidelity. One morning, as I was passing nearly opposite Somerset House, in the Strand, a lamplighter nimbly ran up his ladder to trim the lamp which was affixed close under the window of an opulent tradesman's house, when a large spotted dog, aroused by the noise of the ladder,

rushed furiously out of the window, and commenced so furious a barking within the reach of the man's head, that he deemed it most prudent to retire, leaving the lamp to a more favourable opportunity, to the diversion of numerous passengers. Have you not seen, my little readers, these animals ever ready to rush forward on the approach of a stranger or enemy, to defend the property and persons of those, who, perhaps but a few moments before, chid or beat them for a misdemeanor?

Yes, and I will venture to say, many of you have experienced the gratitude and caresses of these faithful animals, when perhaps, infant-like, unable to totter any longer, you have rolled on the carpet and found a favourite Dog as ready to play, as to be be played with; waging his tail, barking, and striving with his tongue, to lick your chubby cheeks.

Pincher was one of these faithful companions, and very often play-mate to little Ann; he would play and frisk about, and sometimes take her fingers in his mouth, but he did not bite; he would cause sport to the rest of the family, by his tricks with a favourite cat, which was not afraid of him, but often his companion.

Sometimes he would want to play when, perhaps, it was not agreeable to pussy, and as he did not understand a gentle growl, she would give him a pat on the nose, which he used to take in good part, but when inclined for play they were as nimble as kittens; she would play as kittens do, and was often obliged to mew, from rather too hard a nibble of his extended jaws; which many a time have taken up her kittens, and carried them to all parts of the house without hurt; as easy as he used to carry stones, that his young master, *Frank*, threw for him to fetch.

Little children! imitate Pincher, (for though of the brute creation, animals often give examples worthy men to imitate), be gentle in your actions, though like him, you have power; be attached to those about your person, and let your affection and gratitude to your parents exceed *his* fidelity.

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ON THE WANT OF THOUGHT.

A cheesmonger's boy who resided in Holborn, had been sent a few doors off with eggs and butter in a basket, attended by his master's child, a boy, about eighteen months old.

On his return, to please the child, as he thought, he placed him in the basket, then on his head, to carry as he used to carry butter or cheese; but alas! the

little child moving itself, put the basket suddenly off its balance, and the helpless infant fell at the careless boy's heels, stunned and sorely bruised, on the stone flags.

Before the boy had acted so, I fear he did not reflect what were likely to be the consequence; if he had, I think the perilous situation of the infant, must have shewn itself.

This attention to causes and effects is justly termed *fore-thought*, and it is by attention to this, the arts, manufactures, inventions and discoveries are attained; in building a house, the foundation is generally laid deep in the earth; by this it stands many years longer than it would without it. In building the walls they must have a fore-thought of what they intend to build; they must have a plan how and where every door, window, and chimney is to be placed; or they would

be liable to build it without them; then we should have houses wanting a door to enter at, or a chimney to carry off the smoke. Every one knows that houses have these, and other conveniences to render them complete; therefore, forethought and industry is only wanting to give the effect.

We are told the first discoverer of gunpowder, was ignorant of its power or effect; and to try it, he placed a large stone over a quantity, which setting a spark to, instantly deprived him of life. Experience has now fully proved its most dreadful effects; the use of guns was in time had recourse to; and bows and arrows, which had been heretofore used to destroy our fellow creatures, were now laid aside, for the more certain method by gunpowder. Oh! the havock and destruction that have been occasioned in all quarters of the globe by means of this; the poor harmless natives of America, of

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the Indies, and the most distant isles, unacquainted with its effects, were mowed down by hundreds; disorder and dismay were carried far into their countries, and they are *now* termed more civilized.

We live in times when the cannon's roar rages with greater fury than ever it has done; whole armies have been destroyed; thousands of widows and chil-

dren have been left destitute and fatherless. Those that use these weapons cannot be guided by humanity or compassion, but by cruelty, ambition and pride, springing from the root of all evil; they, whose only laws of *right* is *power*, regard not the murderous and desolating effects of their blood-thirsty deeds.

The Sagacity and Courage of a Horse.

AS a youth in Surry, was riding in a light cart without reins, with a truss or two of hay to feed a flock of sheep that were dependant on his care, the horse suddenly became restively prancing, shewing signs that he wanted to be *off*; the youth seeing this, alighted and seized him by the head, but was not able to restrain him; as he set off full speed, dragging the youth as he kept fast hold of him, until, overcome by fatigue, he fell, both wheels going over his body.

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The horse had ran so far as to be on the brow of a steep hill; one wheel being much lower than the other, and the speed he was going at overthrew the cart, breaking the shafts and harness; from which he extricated himself, and again set off full gallop to join a pack of fox hounds, which at that instant passed close before him; he continued the pur-

suit for several fields, when, for want of a guide, he stopped, and was taken home by a neighbour of his owner.

He had heard the hounds at a distance, though not perceived by the youth who drove him, and who did not in the least suspect the original cause, which excited him to start off, to join in a chace which formerly he had been accustomed to.

Entertaining particulars respecting Bridges.

Bridges have been long invented, and although they were originally very roughly made, they answered the purpose intended by them; that those who had to pass over a river, might do so in comfort, without wet feet; heavy goods by this invention were more quickly carried from

one side to the other; and to this day they are esteemed a great convenience, especially by those, who have not enough courage to go into a boat on the water.

Of these structures, London, Blackfriars, and Westminster Bridges, are much noted for their length, architecture, and being the general means for the inhabitants of the vast metropolis, to cross the Thames. These bridges are built of stone, but the foundation of London bridge is of wood, being trees driven down by the side of each other, at low water, into the bed of the river; which, from their number, and being fastened together by iron bolts and screws, form a sufficient foundation for the masons to form a bridge thereon.

London Bridge was first built of timber some time before the year 994, by a college of priests, to whom the profits of St. Mary Overy Ferry had descended.

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The present stone bridge was begun by king Henry, in the year 1176, and finished by king John, in 1209, the architect, was Peter of Colechurch, a priest; who ill displayed his knowledge, by forcing a river of 900 feet through arches, which below the sterlings have a passage of but 194 feet; so great a body of water necessarily forcing its way through, is similar

in violence to that of sluice gates; the difference in the height of water on one side the bridge to the other, being from 5 to 7 feet; hence to small boats it is a very dangerous passage. Many lighters and craft from heavy lading, or other causes, have instantaneously sunk, with the whole of their cargoes.

But of late years we have bridges made of iron, which are durable and lightsome; and from the size of the different pieces which compose them, render them truly the wonder of art.

At the West India and London Docks as well as over many other public navigations, are swing bridges, which admit ships of many tons burthen to pass; these are an improvement on the ancient draw-bridge, which is generally found at the entrance of fortified towns.

About two miles below Chatham there is a floating bridge, formed by a number of shallow barges, boarded over; each side having posts and iron chains, it forms a secure carriage-way for troops and baggage waggons, to cross the Medway; those parts that form the centre, are moored to either side the river, until they are again wanted.

Formerly, almost all foot passengers, horses and carriages, were ferried over rivers, in large flat boats, or barges, called ferry-boats; and still in various parts, where the water is too broad, or the traffic not sufficient to pay for the building of a bridge; we may see chaises, carts, horses, droves of sheep, oxen, and passengers embark at the same time, and are safely conveyed from one shore to the other.

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Honour in a Dwarf, or the fatal effects of Duelling.

WE have many accounts of human dwarfs, but most of them deformed some way or other, besides the smallness of their size; many relations also concerning dwarfs we must necessarily look upon to be fabulous, as well as those concerning giants. The following history however, which we have reason to look

upon as authentic, is too remarkable not to be acceptable to the generality of our readers.

Jeffery Hudson the famous English dwarf, was born at Oakham, in Rutlandshire, in 1619; about the age of seven or eight being then but 18 inches high, he was retained in the service of the Duke of Buckingham, who resided at Burleigh on the Hill; soon after the marriage of Charles the First, the King and Queen being entertained at Burleigh, little Jeffery was served up to table in a cold pie, and presented to the Queen, who kept him as her dwarf.

From seven years of age to *thirty*, he never grew taller, but after thirty, he shot up to 3 feet 9 inches, and there fixed. Here Jeffery became a considerable part of the entertainment of the court. He had borne with indifferent temper, the teazings of the courtiers and domestics;

and had had many squabbles with the King's gigantic porter.

At last being provoked by a Mr. Croft, a young gentleman of family, a challenge ensued, and Mr. Crofts coming to the rendezvous armed only with a squirt, the little creature was so enraged, that a *real* duel ensued; and the appointment being on horseback, (to put him more on a level,) Jeffery with the first fire, shot his antagonist dead. This happened in France, whither he had attended his mistress during the troubles.

The conduct of this little man holds out a useful lesson to all; that to assume a dignity that we are not competent to, is a dangerous pride which leads us into much misery; thus Jeffery thought too highly of his situation, his services, and perhaps of his person, which led him to adopt those fashionable, but truly ridiculous ideas of *honour*, and to the dreadful

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alternative, to kill or be killed. Alas! to take away the life of a fellow creature, whom on a dispassionate reflection he would if in his power have gladly restored.

The young Soldier.

ON the side of one of those verdant hills, which are so numerous in Dorsetshire, and which overlook populous vil-

lages in the valleys, resided a cleanly and frugal widow, who was left with an only son, the second eldest of the family, and two daughters. They were as may be naturally conceived, the joy of their poor mother, her society and comfort in the hours of affliction. The sports of youth this little family exercised, and varied at inclination were at times excited by play-mates from the village, in rusticity and innocence. Their widowed mother engaged them at intervals, in any little thing there was to be done; and as they grew up, she turned their attention to an education, that was to be useful at a future time of life; and which they were happily enabled to receive by her great industry.

The boy, Jem Wild, for that was his name, went to service at a neighbouring farmers, at a salary barely enough to find him in shoes; where he daily toiled and made himself useful, at what there was to

be done. In this situation he behaved himself well, and by his industry and attention grew in great repute with his master, and was generally liked by the whole family. His visits to his mother were sweet; for to him, home was home, however homely; and to enjoy the company of his sisters, was a Sunday treat;

who were now entering life also in servitude.

Jem had often been told to be at all times strictly honest, and in speaking, ever to tell the truth, of doing unto others as he would be done unto, and many other good precepts; he had also an opportunity to know more by reading books, these he practised generally as well, indeed, better than most lads; but alas! this fair prospect was blighted, by a vice that stole upon his actions and conduct; for, sad to tell, a restless disposition arising from an emulation, as he thought, *to do better for himself*, terminated in a kind of pride; in short, being now about seventeen years of age, he thought he knew much; in ploughing, reaping, digging, or other useful employment, he possibly knew as much as most lads of his years, but of the world he knew nothing, he was young and artless.

Having changed his place of servitude he became dissatisfied, and he tried a

third, which he had too much reason to find, less to his mind than the one he first left; and thus he continued in an unsettled indolent state. His mother and sisters he loved tenderly, but having deviated in a small degree, example, and his own inclinations, persuaded him to further sacrifices of his duty. When the young men of the village were speaking of industry, their mode of life, the state of servitude they were in, and the small wages they received in return; one among them started the idea of making their fortunes, by taking the king's bounty, and entering for soldiers.

These silly youths had heard of honour, of fighting in their country's cause, and of the gentillity of such a life, and above all, they were to see much of the country. They were to see the *world*, as they called it, they argued on the most pleasant side, but forgot they would then be servants for life, and not servants for a *year*;

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that they would have officers of different ranks, each requiring duty from them, exercising a discipline in one continued routine, and if not a severe one, the sameness of it would make it irksome. They had often heard of battles, and of fields being won, but the thoughts of bleeding in great misery and fatigue, or of the instant deprivation of a life, of which they had already promised themselves a full share,

did not form any part of their discussion; nor indeed did they give it a thought, that taking away the life of a fellow creature, even in this way, who had in no wise offended them, was a capital offence to the laws of christianity, and opposing the doctrine of HIM, who said, "to him "who smiteth thee on the right cheek, "turn to him the other also."

With a headstrong set of youths, nothing but realizing the *happiest* of their ideas was to be pursued; and after having given assurances, they would accompany each other to the army, inconsideration and folly led them to commit themselves into the hands of a recruiting party, who came that way in search of such as these. The grief to a careful and affectionate mother and tender sisters, a step thus taken would occasion, was, alas! unhappily over-looked. When the sad news first reached his mother's ears, that he,

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with other youths were leaving the village with ribbands and cockades in their hats, she hastened to see them; when the bustle of the villagers, who were out at their doors, each chatting with their neighbour, and repining at their folly, too forcibly announced the truth of the sad story; and then were seen parents, sisters, and friends in the greatest distress, upbraiding in their

heartfelt grief, those who were so estranged to the feelings of another's woe, as to allure them into so fatal an adventure.

The advantages of Swimming.

English sailors certainly enjoy more comforts while at sea, than those of any other nation; but even this is very prescribed.

Salted beef and pork, with hard baked brown bread and biscuit, form their chief food at sea, which to live on for any length of time, subjects them to the scurvy; under the effects of this disorder, the crew under Captain Cook, who sailed round the world, mutined to return to land, that they might procure vegetables and fresh water.

Whilst a vessel is in port, waiting

for repairs, taking in ballast or stores, the seamen enjoy some privileges. Under these circumstances, one of the seamen belonging to his majesty's ship, *Eureus*, whilst laying in Cork Harbour, was bathing his child of about three years old, from the boat that lay along side of her, the little boy slipped from his hands to the inexpressible terror of his father, who not being able to swim, saw his child drowning before his face, without the possibility of affording it any assistance.

In his consternation he seized an oar, with the extreme length of which he was able to reach the child, and place a few inches of the blade under its back, in which situation he kept it for some minutes, the child continuing miraculously buoyant on the water. The mother in this terrible moment seeing what had happened, a scene of frantic horror took place, much easier to be imagined than

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related. While all was doubt, terror, and grief, a sailor, whom the cries of the parent had attracted to the side of the vessel, saw the perilous condition of the poor child, and being a good swimmer, he plunged from the gang way of the frigate into the water, and in a few minutes restored the child to its terrified and afflicted parents.

A fatal instance of Cowardice.

A gentleman who had been attending a meeting of the magistracy, at Kirby Moor Side, on returning home, unhappily through the darkness of the night, lost the track of the road, and was, with his horse, precipated down a steep bank into the river Rye, the bed of which lies across the road.

The horse was found on the following afternoon, alive in the river, having gained a footing on a bed of drifted sand; but the lifeless body of his master was not discovered till *two* days after. It appeared from certain traces in the bank, near to the place where the body was found, that the deceased had caught hold of a shelf of the bank with his hands, and also gained a slender footing; and was, while in this situation, heard repeatedly calling for assistance, by the inhabitants of a farm

house, at a short distance from the fatal spot, but alas! he called without effect.

These people, from their own account, with the intent of affording assistance, went so near as to hear him say to himself, " here seems something coming with a lanthorn and candle," yet a cowardly spirit suggested to them, that this might be a decoy in order to murder and rob them; and under this impression they returned home, and left the poor man to his fate; who, it seems, spent with the fatigue of maintaining his perilous situation, it may be supposed with struggling in the gulph between life and death, had at length fell back into the river.

It will not be improper here to censure the conduct of these people, who thus neglected to relieve a fellow creature in the very extreme of danger; and earnestly to caution others, from being led away in future by a like childish fear.

How delightful would have been the reflection, of having snatched this unfor

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tunate person from an untimely and lamented death!

I would recommend young people to to make a rule of endeavouring to discover the cause of whatever may accidentally alarm them. By this means they would get greater fortitude of mind, and might be able to give their assistance in cases of real danger.

The coachmen and guards to night and mail coaches often meet with accidents,

owing to many unfavourable circumstances they have to contend with; in such situations, presence of mind is very necessary; only think what they must have to brave through in a dark night with bad roads, exposed to heavy rain or driving snow, which deprives them of all knowledge of the road, and a sharp piercing frost, benumbing every limb; whilst you little children are tucked up with great, care, comfortably warm in bed.

Consider then, if there are not many objects, whose sufferings justly claim your compassion and assistance; yes, those children whom we daily see with their little stomachs but half filled, and that with the coarsest food; their bodies raggedly cloathed; their flesh seldom or never clean; their beds perhaps of straw, and that in a dark and loathsome room.

Think then, happy child, and draw the true conclusion, that these things are not given for you *selfishly* to enjoy, but that

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a portion is due to these distressed and hapless poor.

That content is wealth, is in many instances verified, if we but look attentively around us; the peasant, the ploughman, or daily labourer, each in their turn enjoy themselves in their various situations; for where there is industry, there generally is health, and a contented mind occupied by industry, is not likely to fall into evil

practices, but would breathe sentiments similar to what Dr. Watts has happily described,

" In works of labour or of skill,
" I would be busy too;
" For satan finds some mischief still,
" For idle hands to do.

" In books or works, or healthful play
" Let my first years be past,
" That I may give for every day
" Some good account at last."

Humanity to the dumb species shews a heart of feeling, and is very grateful when witnessed in a child.

AS I was walking along a few days since in a bustling part of the town, my attention was arrested by some loud and repeated shouts, which came from the drovers of a flock of harmless sheep that had been brought to Smithfield, and there sold, after suffering under many alarms and privations of food and water. The noise of whirling chariots and carri-

ages of every description, and the prevailing bustle on either side had caused one of them to stray from the drove, when the men to save themselves trouble, set their dogs on after it, and being three or four of them they soon seized it by the throat, and throwing it down, tore off the wool in a sad brutal manner.

But as it happened, the poor sufferer had a friend soon near, for a gentleman's servant, who was riding a fine animal of a horse, seeing its situation, came up full trot, and with a stick in his hand beat off the dogs; the sheep finding itself thus at liberty, instantly ran for farther protection into a shop much crowded with customers; making its way through the midst of them to the farthest end of it, and it was with great trouble they could get the poor animal into the street again.

There can be no doubt but providence has bountifully supplied us with food and raiment through these animals, and that they are for our necessary support; but

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humanity dictates that they are to be treated well, and deprived of life as quickly as may be.

I would wish you, children, to recollect what alarm you feel, if a dog does but bark out loud at you and comes pretty close, without taking you by the ear, by the throat, or the leg, how you cringe and cry out! Upon this reflection I doubt not but you would evince a humane disposition, and try to rescue a poor sheep, or other dumb animal, when suffering in the

hands of cruel men, or surrounded by fierce dogs.

As a sailor, who had had the misfortune to lose his left leg by a fall from the round top of his vessel, was crossing some fields near London, where the styles were troublesome to him, in his mutilated state to get over, and being aged, (to use his own expression,) " time and a deal of hard service had rendered him very unfit for the task ;" having crossed many of them in safety yet he found one, too much for him at last, for in the attempt he fell with his disabled limb so entangled in the style, and his body so situate, that he could not disengage or in any way assist himself.

There were many characters passing to and fro, though not immediately on the spot, and who saw his situation but passed on, not caring to step out of their way to the poor fellow's assistance. At length a young gentleman came near, who discovering him in this situation, ran up

and released his wooden leg from the style, and set him firm on his legs.

The sailor thankful for his deliverance exclaimed, "thank ye, kindly, master for your assistance, for although I have been at sea nearly all my life, have been in all parts of the world, and fought in my country's cause, yet never was I so totally overcome as by these simple means."

How long he might have laid in this situation *but* for this amiable youth, no one can tell; but this we can plainly tell from the youth's actions, that he was sensible of his duty to a fellow creature, however low of birth or condition; and, like a good Samaritan, his assistance was not withheld in the moment of distress, but given, as the *world would describe it*, with an amiable *condescention*.

GEORGE and his sister were children of nine and ten years of age, who went to pass the day on a visit to their cousin,

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which they closed by an evenings diversion of looking over a folio of prints, but George discovered one that interested him more than any of the rest, and led him to make many enquiries.

It was an old print from Fox's Book of Martyrs, representing some of the cruel tortures the martyred christians suffered. He had heard of punishing wicked people for theft and other great crimes, but he was surprized to hear, while he listened with attention, that formerly, men, wo-

men and children, were imprisoned and tortured to death in various cruel ways, for acting a good part; for reading in the Bible, or declaring the doctrine of our great LORD and MASTER, so fully set forth in the New Testament.

They were instruments to prove in their life and martyrdom, the sustaining power of an Almighty God on the souls of the sufferers, and like the great CHRISTIAN PATTERN, they suffered the scoffs, irritations, and cruelty of their enemies, with meekness and resignation to the cross of their crucified Saviour.

Under this influence they *could not return evil for evil*, but suffered themselves to be led like a lamb to the slaughter, declaring aloud their belief, and praying in the moment of severe torture, for the good of their very enemies.

While we of the present day, live in a country where religious sentiments are tolerated, and such ample means are used

to give to children a *book** our ancestors were formerly ill treated for having in their houses, and at a time when so much attention is paid to education, ought we not highly to value and be thankful for such advantages?

We are told by many authors that blinding was a species of punishment anciently inflicted on thieves, adulterers, purjurers, and others, from which the ancient christians were not exempt, by means of lime and vinegar, or barely scalded vinegar, untill the ball of the eye was consumed, and this was varied by red hot iron plates being placed before them until their coats were shrivelled up and blindness was produced. The Appolonians executed it when found asleep on their watch.

These punishments were first abolished in Britain and France by the introduction of whipping or flogging in its stead.

In civilized life a regular system of go-

* Bible.

vernment must be kept up, to maintain order and honesty in society, to this end moderate punishment is practised.

But children who pay attention to what good people and their friends say to them, will not stand in need of corporal punishment; and who, if they notice the *suffering in mind* of those who have done wrong, will shew wisdom in judging of them as charitably as possible; but at the same time let their error be a way mark to steer by, that you may avoid

the many sands and shoals in life that bring ruin and destruction.

Let us justly appreciate the advantages of education which enables us to read the Bible and other good books; and let us lift up our hearts with gratitude to the giver of every good gift that HIS spirit has so far overcome error, as to stop the ravages of cruel persecution; and teacheth us to love our neighbour as ourselves, to do unto all men as we would be done unto, that in all our transactions there may be true charity and love.

Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God, so shall this conduct as it is more widely diffused, tend to universal peace; when swords shall be beaten into plough shares, and spears into pruning hooks, and man shall learn war and contention no more.

FINIS.

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